

DRAFT
Meeting Summary
Worker's Compensation Advisory Committee -Subcommittee on Health Care
March 20, 2006

Participants

Labor:	Robby Stern, Ed Wood and John Aslakson
Business:	Vickie Gore, Beverly Simmons, Jerry Reilly, and Kris Tefft
Board of Industrial Appeals:	Tom Egan
L&I:	Gary Franklin, Roy Plaeger-Brockway, Bob Mootz, Diana Drylie, Susan Campbell, Lee Glass, Dave Overby, and Karen Jost
UW:	Tom Wickizer, Deb Fulton-Kehoe and Terri Smith-Weller
Renton COHE:	Karen Nilson, and Ellen Hull
Spokane COHE:	Dan Hansen and Pam Cromer
Guests:	Sally Rueter – UBC, Inc. L&I – Kim Arakawa, Karen Ahrens, Chuck Hitchings, Cherie Berthon and Mary Shatto

Introductions and minutes – Gary Franklin welcomed the group and asked for any comments on the minutes from the October 2005 meeting. There were no changes suggested.

Quality Indicators for Orthopedists – Karen Jost presented information on a project developing quality indicators for orthopedists. The 2 year project will start in July 2006, followed by a 6 month evaluation period. There are six best practices for which orthopedists will receive incentives.

Selected questions/issues raised by Committee members (answers by Gary):

- ❖ **This committee would like to see the evaluation tool for this project.**
- ❖ **Is this project proposed or already in place? Do you want approval or advice? Is this part of COHE? We feel out of the loop.**
 - The department has decided this is the best way to deal with access issues for orthopedic care. This is not part of COHE. L&I welcomes suggestions and feedback on ways to improve the project.
- ❖ **This committee is on healthcare issues, not just COHE. Health care issues should come to this committee first, before the WCAC parent committee.**
 - The role and scope of this committee will be on the agenda for the July 2006 meeting.
- ❖ **The use of the preferred drug list and the number of dispense as written prescriptions is not a quality indicator, but is a way to save money. The tiered incentives should not be based on this. The committee would like a report back on this issue.**

Overview of COHE plans for 2007-2009 -

Implementation and Evaluation – Diana Drylie presented slides on the focus of COHE in 2006-2009. The proposed focus is to determine if the existing COHE results can be sustained, improved and transferred. The slides described what will be needed in implementation and evaluation to answer these questions.

Request for Information – (Roy Plaeger-Brockway left the room for this discussion) Susan Campbell presented the timeline for the Request for Information and development of the seed communities. Business and labor will each have two representatives on a subcommittee to help

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write the Request for Proposals and to score and interview the proposals. The goal for releasing the RFP is July 1, 2006.

- ❖ **Are we being too conservative? Should we be expanding more?**
 - ❖ **There are still a lot of unknowns; we do not know what is making the biggest impact. Plus, we still do not have self-insured employer participation.**
 - Roy is working with the Washington Self-Insured Association about how to get those employers involved in COHE. The Eastern Washington COHE is also working on getting them involved.
 - Two ways to help evaluate which components are the most effective are through the seed projects and through further analysis of data by the UW.
 - ❖ **Could the trauma unit at Harborview be a seed project?**
 - Yes, they could submit a proposal for a health services coordinator or some other piece of the COHE model. The UW sent in a Request for Information and has shown interest in the RFP.
- (Roy returned)**

UW Research – Spokane Worker Survey – Tom Wickizer presented the results from the Spokane Worker Survey. Workers seen by COHE providers -

- Had little difference in terms of satisfaction with care
- Reported more provider-employer communication
- Were more likely to be employed at the time of the interview
- Were less likely to be on time-loss at 6 months and had lower time-loss payments
- Were more likely to be non-white and have less education

Eastern Washington COHE Update – Dan Hansen and Pam Cromer presented slides on the Eastern Washington Center of Occupational Health and Education.

- The Wenatchee Advisory Committee is expected to be formed in April 2006.
- The Yakima Health Services Coordinator should be hired by June 2006.
- The final version of the Athena data system (formerly OMITs) should be finished by July 2006.

Selected questions/issues raised by Committee members (answers by Dan Hansen):

- ❖ **It is important to have a labor representative with farm worker experience on the Wenatchee advisory committee.**
- ❖ **How is the advisory committee different than the Business/Labor Advisory Board?**
 - The subcommittee is advisory to the Business/Labor Advisory Board and gives local communities involvement in the COHE. One business and one labor member of the Yakima Advisory Committee are also voting members of the Business/Labor Advisory Board. The Yakima Advisory Committee also votes on issues that they want to bring to the larger board.

Renton COHE Update – Karen Nilson and Ellen Hull presented the update for the Renton COHE.

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Karen pointed out that they are not planning expansion much beyond their current number of providers or boundary. They have added some clinics that are already in COHE, but have additional clinics outside the original boundary of the COHE. They want to focus on improving and refining what they are doing. For instance, they are looking into intervening earlier for those claims that will go beyond 90 days of time-loss. What are the barriers and how can they be addressed?

Selected questions/issues raised by Committee members:

- ❖ **What is the component of the model that is causing the Renton COHE to have fewer time-loss claims (as shown in the June 2005 evaluation.)?**
 - (Tom Wickizer answered) There has been no formal analysis of this question yet. We hope to look at it in the future.
- ❖ **Is the budget for 2007-2009 an issue? There is no increase in the proposed budget. Labor and Business expressed support for taking inflation and cost increases into account for 2007-2009. Share any proposed budget increases with this committee.**
 - (Karen Nilson answered) Inflation is an issue, as well as continued budget constraints as they do a modest expansion to new areas and providers.
- ❖ **How do the number of appeals for COHE claims compare to overall statewide appeals?**
 - This was looked at last year. L&I will update the data and send it to committee members. See below.
 - **(% appeals for claims from July 2004-December 2005 – Renton – 1.2%, Spokane – 1.5% and statewide – 1.8%)**
- ❖ **The research required for the pilot on employer reporting should include when there is employer reporting only, as well as employer reporting only in COHE and COHE without employer reporting.**
- ❖ **Are there retro groups in COHE?**
 - (Gary answered) About 45% of the claims are from retro employers. Tom Wickizer looked at the data and found that retro claims have less time-loss than claims statewide; however, in the COHE, there was no difference between retro and non-retro claims.

NEXT MEETING

- **Tuesday, July 18 – 9:00 am -12:00 noon, Teamsters Hall in Tukwila**